

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 /092 W
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P R 100520Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8637

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 2852

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR NZ

SUBJECT: COURTESY CALL BY AMBASSADOR ON PRIME MINISTER ROWLING

REF WELLINGTON 2848

1. I PAID A TWENTY MINUTE COURTESY CALL SEPT 10 ON
PRIME MINISTER ROWLING, DURING WHICH I CONVEYED CONGRATULATIONS
OF PRESIDENT FORD, SECRETARY KISSINGER AND MY OWN CONGRATULATIONS
ON ROWLING'S SELECTION AS NEW PRIME MINISTER OF NEW ZEALAND.
I SAID THAT I HOPED AND EXPECTED THE PRESENT GOOD RELATIONS
BETWEEN NEW ZEALAND AND THE UNITED STATES TO CONTINUE.
ROWLING QUICKLY SAID HE FULLY AGREED.

2. WITH RESPECT TO ALLOTMENT OF CABINET PORTFOLIOS,
ROWLING COMMENTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN SOME DEBATE
IN THE LABOUR PARTY CAUCUS RE ASSIGNMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
PORTFOLIO. ROWLING HAD EVENTUALLY DECIDED TO TAKE THE
POSITION HIMSELF AS A SIGNAL TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD THAT NEW
ZEALAND FOREIGN POLICY WOULD NOT UNDERGO ANY ABRUPT CHANGES
BUT RATHER WOULD PURSUE THE SAME LINES. ROWLING SAID HE
REALIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR IN NEW
ZEALAND AND HAD BEEN IMPORESSED WITH THE WAY THE FORMER
ACTING PRIME MINISTER, MR. WATT, HAD HANDLED THE JOB.
HOWEVER, WATT'S FIRST LOVE WAS THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND
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DEVELOPMENT, WHICH HE CONTINUED TO HOLD IN THE NEW CABINET,

AND THE ABLE MR. ARTHUR FAULKNER, FORMER MINISTER OF DEFENSE,
HAD BEEN ASSIGNED THE LABOUR FUNCTION.

3. I COMMENTED ON HOW RELAXED ROWLING APPEARED TO BE,
PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE SEVERAL RATHER HECTIC DAYS
THAT HE HAD BEEN THROUGH. HE RESPONDED THAT HE MAY APPEAR
TO BE MORE REALIZED THAN WAS ACTUALLY THE CASE.

4. COMMENT. I BELIEVE I AM PROBABLY THE FIRST FOREIGN
AMBASSADOR IN WELLINGTON TO HAVE CALLED ON
MR. ROWLING SINCE HE BECAME PRIME MINISTER. I PLAN AS WELL TO CALL
ON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER TIZARD AND OTHER MINISTERS WHO HAVE
NEW PORTFOLIOS AS SOON AS APPOINTMENTS CAN BE
ARRANGED.
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